

Rome may not have been built in a day, but Regatta's going to build two homes in Fellsmere

By Lamaur Stancil

FELLSMERE — Very little has occurred to dampen the preparation for the benevolent effort to build two homes this Saturday in the Carter Hall James subdivision.

Regatta Construction and a few dozen contractors are planning to build from scratch a pair of three-bedroom homes for two needy families on State Street.

"We don't have to sweat the manpower," Regatta supervisor Ron Harless said.

But frequent rain last month had Regatta officials concerned about keeping the project on track.

October's rain had left the ground moist where the dirt foundation had been laid for one of the properties. Harless said if the ground hadn't dried in time for last week's compaction test, the construction may have been delayed.

But the ground proved dry enough for a work crew from Jones Masonry of Vero Beach to pour the concrete base for the home Wednesday. Prestige Ab Ready Mix of Fort Pierce donated the cement.

"The rain helps out in the compaction, but it needs time to dry out," Harless said.

Pamela Jefferson, a mother of two who is on workers' compensation, sought government money to help make her repairs on her worn-down home, but couldn't get any.

That's when the Indian River County Health Department's Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence program learned of her plight and got Regatta executives interested in replacing her home. The program conducts meetings in communities and tries to develop solutions.

Jefferson's next-door neighbor, Martha Rainey, 63, was in a similar plight, which is why Regatta agreed to build a home for her in one day as well.

Their neighborhood, Carter Hall James in the northeast part of Fellsmere, is predominately filled with low-income families.

Work crews tore down the families' old homes during the summer and Regatta has held several organizational meetings since then to prepare for building the new homes.

Last year, Regatta built a home in one day for a needy Wabasso woman.

Organizers for Saturday's construction said they're unaware of any other benevolent effort to build two homes in a day.



Photo by Sam Wolfe
Gustavo Olivo, left, and members of the crew from Jones Masonry of Vero Beach on Wednesday level out the foundation for a home that will be built for Martha Rainey on State Street in Fellsmere. On Saturday, crews will be building two homes in one day — one for Rainey's family and one for Pamela Jefferson's family

Regatta Construction of Vero Beach and several contractors will try to build two new homes in Fellsmere in one day. Here's the game plan:

- 6 a.m. — Erection of pre-built framework for the walls of the homes.
- 8:30 a.m. — Plumbing, air conditioning and electrical installation
- 10:30 a.m. — Roof installation

- 1:45 p.m. — Cabinets, shelves and countertops
- 2:30 p.m. — Water and electrical connections
- 3 p.m. — Landscaping and appliances
- 4 p.m. — Final inspection

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